

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic composition, comprising:  
surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and  
an anti-perspiring component,  
wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise  
water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least  
one kind of functional group, and  
wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-  
hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the  
average particle diameter of ~~polymer particles selected from the water-absorbing polymer~~  
~~particles and~~ the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 5-10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the  
amount of water absorbed into ~~the polymer particles selected from the water-absorbing~~  
~~polymer particles and~~ the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to  
100 g/g.

Claims 12 and 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The cosmetic composition of claim 4, wherein the amount of water absorbed into ~~the polymer particles selected from the water-absorbing polymer particles and~~ the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claims 15 and 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claims 18 and 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 11, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 23 (New): A method of controlling perspiration, comprising:

applying a composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and an anti-perspiring component onto the skin,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group, and

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claim 24 (New): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

Claim 25 (New): The cosmetic composition of claim 23, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

Claim 26 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked copolymer comprising polymerized hydrophilic vinyl monomers.

Claim 27 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked poly(meth)acrylate.

Claim 28 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound has at least one of an amino and an ammonium group.

Claim 29 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, further comprising  
a carrier.